

Newsletter 27.03.2020

Dear students and parents!

Tuesday, we sent out information about the government's decision to keep all schools closed until April 13, as well as information in relation to school fees and travel economy. See Skoleplan. We have not become wiser since Tuesday, but we do expect politicians to announce a package of aid to the free schools as well similar to that offered to the business sector. We are going to have to put some pressure on politicians not to make it a political debate on schools and values.

Online teaching and activities will continue next week, see the schedule in Skoleplan. Monday, Wednesday and Friday there is assembly. Monday morning at 8 am, you can lie in your bed and watch Peter Kristensen do morning exercise. Wednesday at 11.30 am, there is a music event with a "new leadership band" and on Friday there is an Easter event at 11 am.

Next week will also introduce the opportunity to propose new activities for the last period of the school year and you will find the form for ideas on Skoleplan next week. We need to be ready to re-start!

Can't we just open the school and you can quarantine here?

Several students and parents have asked if it is not possible to come to the school and quarantine in smaller groups. It would have been great, if we could do Efterskole despite the Corona crisis, but, unfortunately, we cannot. Such arrangement would break the law and the conditions we have to act on during the lock down period. You know that we are flexible, creative and that we have the will to make Efterskole life all over the world - we would have loved to set our own agenda.

Opportunity to pick things up in the rooms!

As the lock down have been extended, more students may need to come to the school to pick up their books or belongings from the rooms. You can use your key to enter the house and the room, but you need to inform your house coordinator on Skoleplan that you are coming.

We would like you to come during office hours, weekdays between 9-15, if possible otherwise make an appointment with the house coordinator.

The Reunification Stone has been recovered

In the hedge in front of the main building at Seminarievej is a large stone. It has been there for 100 years and comes from a giant mound. No one really took notice of the stone as it was hidden in the hedge. But this is a so-called reunification stone, which was set in 1920 by the students of the former teacher's academy, as a mark of Denmark winning back South Jutland by a referendum. The border moved from the Kongeåen down to the border we know today. The stone marks both a national event in which the South Jutland, which Denmark lost in Prussia in 1864, was won back. However, there is a dash on the stone, and it indicates that many would have liked to see that the last piece of land right down to the river Eideren near Hamburg had also been brought "home to Denmark".

We are not nationalists in Ranum, but the stone also marks that the world got a unique border, where it is the mindset (what you feel like) that decides whether you are Danish or German. I.e. that German people had the opportunity to create German schools in Denmark and Danish people had the opportunity to create Danish schools and associations in Germany. The border is not just a line on the map, but there is room for cultural diversity and freedom for individuals to retain their national and cultural heritage.

The stone has now been refreshed by a stonecutter, as well as exposed to the open. Its history is described by a former teacher in Ranum, Ove Bak, and via following link you can read more about the story:

http://ranumbilleder.dk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Genforeningsstenen_version_2.pdf

At Ranum we were supposed to have marked the reunification in 1920 on May 14 with a visit from the approx. 400 students from the Duborg school. Unfortunately, this arrangement has been canceled due to Corona lock down. We were planning to celebrate the "borders of open-mindedness" and the togetherness by having all students lay a stone from their homeland or local area around the Reunification Stone. Instead, we will start with our own students bringing a stone (the size of a large fist) from their garden, local beach or home. On the stone students write their name and hometown with permanent paint suitable for this purpose – which we have at the school. The stones are then laid – circling the Reunification Stone, as a symbol that we in Ranum gather young people and cultures across countries, borders and home regions.

The missing X came into place

For more than 10 years, a big X has been missing in the writing on the gable of the former academy. Can you "figure out" what year it is? Otherwise you can ask your friends or the math teachers. We have recovered the missing X and thus regained order in the years written on the old teacher's academy – now the Efterskole.

Thanks to all of you who participated in the assembly at Ranum Efterskole College Facebook live today. We look forward to all of you returning for a real assembly.

Keep your spirits high and yourself inside – we will see you soon, hopefully

With best regards

Olav Storm

Principal